

Making Online Student Services Reliable and Affordable

FairChoice Systems— Software as a Service (SaaS) Applications



Highlights

- Greatly reduce risk of non-compliance with state health regulations by fulfilling student vaccination requirements online
- Improve efficiency of housing selection by enabling students to apply for housing, review available rooms, and electronically sign their housing contracts
- Cut costs and reduce processing time for health and housing forms by up to 90 percent
- Gain clarity on IT expenses with simple per student per year license fees
- Easily integrate new online services with your existing legacy systems

FairChoice
Systems



With increased global competition and a fast changing regulatory environment, many educational institutions are looking for better and more cost-effective ways to automate their business processes and improve compliance while increasing student satisfaction. Constrained IT resources and tight budgets are causing many institutions to turn to Software as a Service (SaaS) offerings to achieve their objectives. Gartner and other industry analysts predict that by 2010, 30 percent of all software sales will be delivered via software-as-a-service (SaaS). FairChoice Systems is changing the landscape of today's education environment by offering hosted solutions for student services that can be deployed with low risk and at a fraction of the cost of traditional software implementations.

Reducing cost and risk

Many of today's colleges and universities are seeking to improve student services and achieve compliance with regulatory requirements such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Until recently, institutions had focused on achieving these objectives by automating business processes through custom developed software or packaged Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. While these types of software solutions have provided a lot of value, in many cases they have been expensive to implement and maintain. Perhaps more importantly, they can limit agility since it may take months or years to implement a new system.

A new approach is now being considered by many institutions. SaaS solutions offer a lower cost alternative that can be implemented quickly and with lower risk. FairChoice Systems is taking advantage of this trend by offering affordable online services that institutions can purchase on a per student basis.

Secure, fully integrated online services

FairChoice Systems provides secure, fully integrated Web-based solutions that can improve student services while reducing costs.

The initial offerings include:

- End-to-end online management of student vaccination certification
- Online management of housing forms, from contact to contract

FairChoice Health Solutions

FairChoice Systems has pioneered a new way for institutions to track and fulfill student vaccination requirements online. Based on technology developed and in use at Columbia University, FairChoice Health Solutions can help you streamline vaccination certification by moving from paper forms to the Web. The solution integrates with your legacy system and offers a highly secure compliance solution that exceeds HIPAA and FERPA requirements. The online fulfillment process is accurate and efficient, helping you to cut costs and reduce processing time by up to 90 percent. [Bernie do we need a footnote here?]

FairChoice Housing

FairChoice Housing allows students to apply for housing, review available rooms and electronically sign their housing contracts, all online. It's secure, fast, and accurate, cutting cost and reducing processing time by up to 90%1. And it fully integrates with your existing housing and student data systems, eliminating redundant data silos.

“Sun’s technologies and programs have enabled us get to market quickly with a SaaS solution and take advantage of a cost-effective and flexible IT infrastructure. This translates directly into lower costs for our customers and provides increased agility, enabling us to respond quickly when customer capacity requirements change.”

Bernie Kluger

CEO & Principal Consultant
FairChoice Systems

SolarisSM on Demand program

Sun’s SolarisSM On Demand program is designed to help ISVs accelerate the process of transitioning to SaaS. The program includes no up-front costs or obligations and provides ISVs with the technology, hosted infrastructure and services needed to offer their software as a service — without re-writing code. ISVs can focus on what they do best, developing the application features and functions that their customers want. Sun and its partners take care of the enterprise-class infrastructure and hosting services.

Participating in the program has enabled FairChoice Systems to quickly deploy their application in a multi-tenancy environment. SolarisSM Containers were utilized to provide a secure virtual host environment for each customer’s instance of the application. Access to Sun’s expertise and market-leading technologies also helped reduce the cost and risk of bringing this new application to market.

FairChoice Systems customers benefit from:

- **Higher quality of service** — Institutions can receive guaranteed levels of service that are backed by comprehensive service level agreements (SLAs).
- **New opportunities** — The SaaS offering makes new student services affordable to small and medium-sized campuses that might otherwise have continued to use inefficient manual processes.
- **Lower costs** — The SaaS model and the low development costs of this approach allows FairChoice Systems to eliminate up front costs for its customers and deliver services on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- **Speed-to-Market** — Customers can reduce the time and cost of deploying student services and be up and running in days or weeks, not months.

SolarisSM Containers Technology

Solaris Containers virtualize compute resources using a low-overhead partitioning approach that combines fine-grained resource controls with the ability to securely isolate application workloads in separate partitions of the Solaris OS. ISVs can use Solaris Containers to run multiple instances of their single tenancy applications without re-architecting the application. Customer can then benefit from secure isolation and high service levels supported by a low cost infrastructure.

Solaris Containers technology is included with the Solaris 10 OS at no extra cost. The free and open Solaris OS is the industry’s leading, most stable UNIX[®] operating system. Solaris 10 offers a highly scalable, stable, and secure stack for delivering solutions on demand.

Get started now

Find out how you can improve your student services while reducing costs by contacting FairChoice Systems today.

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Learn More

To find out more about SaaS solutions from FairChoice Systems, visit fairchoicesystems.com. For more information about the Solaris on Demand program, visit sun.com/ondemand.